

**DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
DELTA PLAN INTERAGENCY IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

April 8, 2019

Tsakopoulos Library Galleria

828 I St, Sacramento

MEETING SUMMARY

The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) established the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC) after adoption of the Delta Plan in 2013 and continues to coordinate and oversee DPIIC activities as required by the Delta Reform Act. DPIIC serves as a forum to orchestrate the timely and orderly implementation of the Delta Plan and Delta Science Plan as well as a venue to coordinate priorities and best management practices intended to improve statewide water supply reliability and ecosystem conditions in the Delta. The eleventh Committee meeting took place on Monday, April 8, 2019 and was called to order by Chair Susan Tatayon.

The recording of the meeting can be found on the Council's website: <http://cal-span.org/static/meetings-DSC.php>. Meeting materials and presentations can also be found on the Council's website: <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/event-detail/16273>.

Attendees

The following committee members were in attendance (alphabetical):

Josephine Axt	Chief of Planning, United States Army Core of Engineers
John Callaway	Lead Scientist, Delta Science Program
Dan Castleberry	Assistant Regional Director, Fish and Aquatic Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Southwest (<i>for Paul Souza, Regional Director</i>)
Wade Crowfoot	Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency (Resources) and Mike Roberts, Special Assistant for Delta Restoration
E. Joaquin Esquivel	Chair, State Water Resources Control Board and Michael George, Delta Watermaster
Campbell Ingram	Executive Officer, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy)
Brooke Jacobs	Program Manager, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (<i>for Chuck Bonham, Director</i>)
Gail Louis	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (<i>for Tomas Torres, Water Division Director</i>)
Clyde Macdonald	Board Member, Central Valley Flood Protection Board (<i>for Bill Edgar, President</i>)
Kevin Masuhara	Deputy Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture (<i>for Karen Ross, Secretary</i>)
Dave Mooney	Area Manager, Bay-Delta Office, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (<i>for Ernest Conant, Regional Director, Mid-Pacific Region</i>)
Karla Nemeth	Director, California Department of Water Resources and Cindy Messer Chief Deputy Director
Kristin Peer	Assistant General Counsel, California Environmental Protection Agency (<i>for Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary</i>)
Maria Rea	Assistant Regional Manager, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (<i>for Barry Thom, West Coast Administrator</i>)
Susan Tatayon	Chair, Council

Oscar Villegas	Chair, Delta Protection Commission
Kiel Weaver	Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science, U.S. Department of the Interior

In addition to those listed above, various experts and managers presented to the Committee (in order of appearance):

Amanda Bohl	Special Assistant for Planning and Science, Council
Randy Fiorini	Vice-Chair, Council
Jason Peltier	Public
Richard Norgaard	Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB)
Jay Lund	Delta ISB
Steve Brandt	Delta ISB
Adrian Covert	Vice President, Public Policy for the Bay Area Council
Caitlin Sweeney	Director, San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Valerie Cook-Fletcher	Senior Environmental Scientist (Sup), CDFW

Overview and Introductions

Chair Tatayon welcomed attendees and took a moment to recount the history and some of the Committee's achievements. Each of the Committee members introduced themselves and shared their thoughts and current work activities related to the Delta.

Upon completion of introductions, Chair Tatayon drew attention to the Council's performance measures dashboard and handbook. The Chair stated that the performance measures help the Council track progress toward achieving the co-equal goals and invited the attendees and Committee members to explore the website: <https://viewperformance.deltacouncil.ca.gov/>

Opportunities for Strengthening and Supporting the Delta Science Enterprise

Chair Tatayon provided a brief background on the Delta science funding initiative and the Delta Independent Science Board's letter to DPIIC.

Ms. Bohl provided context for the Delta Science Funding Initiative Workgroup and the impetus for their efforts, noting the creation of the workgroup and the development of the white paper which outlines three primary issues—or barriers—to increasing science funding and the recommendations the workgroup identified for addressing these issues.

Mr. Fiorini discussed the workgroup process and the entities that participated.

Mr. Peltier spoke on collaborative science and how the workgroup came together to address funding, noting the 'tangled web' that has been created regarding how we manage the Delta, science, water projects, and ourselves. He urged conversation and introspection on how we understand the 'tangled web' and move toward furthering our ends more efficiently and effectively. Mr. Peltier called for a uniform process for tracking and understanding funding and modernization of monitoring in the Delta.

Dr. Norgaard presented the Delta ISB's rationale for its letter to DPIIC, stressing how rapid environmental change is impacting the Delta and that there is a growing need for Delta scientists and managers to be able to act quickly. Dr. Norgaard's presentation provided a history of rapid change in the Delta.

Dr. Lund addressed the need to prepare for these upcoming changes and advocated for DPIIC to create a workgroup to consider not only the recommendations in the white paper, but also the long-term preparation and management of science.

Secretary Crowfoot asked if the agencies at the table were aligned on the issues and findings identified in the white paper and noted in the Delta ISB's letter to DPIIC. Mr. Chotkowski pointed out that there needs to be a "deep-dive" to see what current science is addressing, as well as what is not being addressed and needs to be.

Dr. Brandt addressed the need for topic specific implementation and short-term focus for opportunities of ecosystem and adaptive management. Ms. Nemeth agreed that efficiency of dollars is important and asked how one could move away from language of optimization to language of risk management for addressing long-term issues.

Dr. Brandt explained that it is a different approach to thinking about science. This approach changes the focus from explanatory science to refocus on drivers and forecasting for the future. Dr. Lund added that it would be premature for the Delta ISB to have specific suggestions, however, he believes that an all-inclusive and broad discussion about moving forward is needed and could be facilitated by a workgroup.

Mr. Peltier added that getting a clear picture of the funding is essential and achievable.

Chair Tatayon acknowledged the feeling of tension between identifying efficiencies and funding science that needs to be happening more rapidly. Chair Tatayon stated that the first step should be a workgroup to sort out the current slate of recommendations.

Mr. MacDonald spoke on the need for integration with engineering considerations, acknowledging that the issue will be more than just policy and will require alignment amongst all involved.

Mr. Esquivel thanked the panelists and his colleagues for addressing these concerns and stated that this issue is one of the most essential issues to address for long-term success. He asked if some of the long-term monitoring data would remain and asked how the workgroup will identify long-term monitoring data that needs to be protected.

Mr. Peltier stated that this is not a new question and that the modernization of method does not sacrifice understanding in the Delta. Mr. Peltier used delta smelt monitoring as an example of how modernization of method improved the process by recognizing there is a need for change. He asserted that there will be trade-offs, but we should not fear modernization or loss of data.

Secretary Crowfoot endorsed the workgroup. Chair Tatayon asked Mr. Fiorini if he wanted to talk about the structure of the workgroup before moving forward. Mr. Fiorini stated that 30 people participated in the initial workgroup, and recommended that all of the current members of the workgroup remain. Mr. Fiorini suggested adding DPIIC agency members not represented in the initial workgroup and two members of the Delta ISB—making it an approximately 40 member workgroup.

Chair Tatayon asked if there are any further questions regarding the workgroup.

Ms. Axt stated that she approved of the added collaboration, and asked for a quick explanation of how it will work with a potentially cumbersome number of members. Mr. Fiorini stated that it would require leadership, and that the group will potentially be broken into smaller sub-groups—preferably meeting monthly with a goal of consolidating work products to produce a report for DPIIC before its November meeting.

Dr. Calloway pointed out that governance issues had not been addressed by the panelists and asked if anyone would like to comment on the subject. Mr. Peltier stated that it is important to have a more global understanding of the term “governance”; it is not what authority each have over another. It is a question of how we are working together, how we can work better together, and what we are doing today that we no longer have to do.

Chair Tatayon proposed DPIIC endorsement of the workgroup. Although DPIIC is not a voting body, Mr. Peltier clarified that a vote entails participation, prioritization, and resources. DPIIC endorsed the workgroup, and Chair Tatayon noted that Ms. Bohl will follow-up with the agencies to initiate the workgroup.

Before closing the agenda item and proceeding to the break, Chair Tatayon made an announcement regarding the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area. Chair Tatayon congratulated the Commission, the Council, the Conservancy, and others who worked on or supported the designation.

DPIIC took a 20-minute break.

Progress toward Protecting, Restoring, and Enhancing the Delta Ecosystem

Chair Tatayon called the meeting back to order and provided an introduction of the panelists before turning it over to Ms. Law, the panel’s moderator.

Ms. Law thanked everyone for the opportunity to present and provided an update on the Delta Plan Chapter 4 Ecosystem Amendment process, including proposed core strategies, physical priorities for restoration, and ideas for improving institutional coordination, noting the role that DPIIC has taken in institutional coordination.

Mr. Covert presented on the Bay Area’s Measure AA, noting that Measure AA was the first regional measure in the Bay Area. Measure AA set a \$12 parcel tax and is expected to raise 500 million dollars over 20 years. Measure AA funds will be administered by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA).

Mr. Covert also spoke about related efforts that were used to educate the public about sea-level rise and extreme weather events in the future, which provided the context needed to pass Measure AA on June 16, 2018. Mr. Covert thanked and recognized the steering committee involved, noting that they were a mixture of business and environmental organizations. He further acknowledged Measure AA’s outreach strategy, noting that there was unanimous support from Bay Area newspapers.

Ms. Sweeney provided an overview of the SFBRA’s structure, including the Governing Board, proposal scoring categories, and the first round of funded projects.

Mr. Roberts provided an update on the California EcoRestore initiative, noting the status of current projects, and explained how projects are moving toward completion. Mr. Roberts also identified where projects are being held up, noting institutional challenges, approach changes, and implementation concerns. Mr. Roberts debuted the EcoRestore video which provides an overview of EcoRestore efforts. The video can be found here: <https://water.ca.gov/News/Blog/2019/April-19/Restoring-CA-Great-Estuary>

Mr. Ingram provided an update on the Conservancy's restoration activities. The presentation covered Prop 1- funded projects, the [Delta Public Lands Strategy](#), subsidence, and potential income opportunities from the Delta carbon market.

Mr. George asked about maintenance costs for EcoRestore projects and the source of funding for the maintenance. Mr. Roberts explained that historically projects have been funded through general funds, noting that bond funding cannot be used for operations and maintenance.

Mr. Weaver asked what permitting inefficiencies are occurring and whether the delays were due to duplication, contradicting requirements, or sequencing issues. Mr. Covert provided an example from the Bay-Delta restoration team, where an analysis found that there were redundancies in the process, adding time and costs. Ms. Sweeney added that there are a number of agencies looking into how they might change their policies to allow for some of the more innovative, creative, multi-benefit adaptation projects to better address a new climate reality.

Ms. Law reminded the committee of DPIIC's support for Sustainable Conservation's efforts around simplified permitting, which is looking at statewide and regional permits to create a more efficient permitting structure. Ms. Rea stated that NOAA has been working with Sustainable Conservation, using new programmatic regulations under the Endangered Species Act to permit a large range of restoration projects.

Mr. Ingram suggested formation of an informal workgroup that would report back at the next DPIIC meeting regarding how DPIIC can best engage in removing barriers to restoration; Ms. Jacobs endorsed the concept, adding that several staff of DPIIC member agencies have been engaged on this topic and continuing this effort is worthwhile.

Chair Tatayon asked if they were seeking an endorsement from DPIIC. Mr. Ingram stated that he would prefer the group define what this group could do, what value it could add, and then report back at the DPIIC meeting in July.

Interagency Efforts to Eradicate Nutria

Dr. Calloway provided an introduction on nutria eradication efforts and invited Ms. Cook-Fletcher to speak.

Ms. Cook-Fletcher discussed project accomplishments, the current understanding of the nutria population and locations, and noted what's next in eradication efforts. She highlighted the nutria pocket guide developed by CDFW and the Council and noted 25,000 copies of the pocket guide have flown off the shelves to the public and areas throughout the Delta. DWR is contributing by having another 25,000 copies of the guide printed.

Mr. George asked if we were gaining ground on the nutria. Ms. Cook-Fletcher responded that we are losing in some locations since there are breeding populations that we currently can't access due to a lack of staff. Mr. Castleberry asked if there is a total cost estimate for complete eradication. Ms. Cook-Fletcher explained that there are annual estimates but nothing for total eradication. She further explained that it is challenging to answer this question since we do not know the full extent of the problem.

Mr. Calloway noted CDFW's submission of a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) and how the passage of the BCP will increase chances of eradication by getting more "boots on the ground."

Mr. Masuhara echoed Ms. Cook-Fletcher's statements, supported the urgency of the message concerning the nutria threat, and expressed CDFA's commitment to the effort.

Closing Remarks and Committee Business

No further comments were provided.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Chair Tatayon adjourned the meeting at 4:17PM.

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- Additional information regarding the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee can be found on the Delta Stewardship Council's at www.deltacouncil.ca.gov.
 - If you have any questions, please contact Erik Erreca at (916) 445-5269 or Erik.Erreca@deltacouncil.ca.gov.
 - If you have questions or need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Human Resources Office at (916) 445-5511, or TDD (800) 735-2929.